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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Arkhangelsk Oblast)

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1. The airfield was on an isle in the Dvina River, about 25 km southeast of Arkhangelsk (64°34' N/40°32' E), Arkhangelsk Oblast. * The wood combine with an unloading site for the field was on the western bank of the Dvina River, west of the airfield. A railroad spur track led from the wood combine to the Isakogorka (64°27' N/40°38' E) railroad station. On the island was a small village and west of it a mill visible from a distance. Three lighthouses were on the coast north of the island.
2. The field, used by land and seaplanes, was occupied by fighters which made formation flights with 6 and 18 planes, about 10 torpedo planes, and about 10 twin-engine bombers.
3. The airfield on the island, which was about 7 km long, southeast of Arkhangelsk, opposite the cellulose and paper-mill, was about 3 km square. * Five hangars were close together on the northwestern edge of the field. About 10 barracks buildings were farther northwest.
4. The field was occupied by single-engine fighters, twin-engine bombers, three-engine transports and biplanes. A four-engine seaplane landed twice a week on the Dvina River, south of the island.
5. There was day and night flying. Parachute jumps from biplanes were seen at night while the field was illuminated. It was also observed that there was bomb releasing over the northwestern section of the island and that firing at wooden disks was practiced there.

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6. PWs worked at the field until September 1948. After that date the area was off limits.
7. The airfield was on an island, 3 km west of the only Arkhangelsk railroad bridge. ** Hangars and a radio station were on the northern edge of the field.
8. The field was occupied by thirty single-engine fighters, similar to Me-109, four-engine transports with retractable landing gear, and more than 100 biplanes.
9. Thirty flying boats were stationed on the left bank of the Dvina River, just east of the airfield. The crews of the flying boats had T-505 on their epauletts.
10. The airfield was on an island in the Dvina River, east of the Arkh-Bum Combine, about 20 km southeast of Arkhangelsk. * The about 3 1/2 km square field had a light gravel cover. A windmill and two radio masts, from 75 to 80 meters high, were northeast of the field.
11. Three large wooden hangars, covered with tarred cardboard, and 7 cantonment buildings, each 20x40 meters, occupied by air force soldiers, were on the edge of the field.
12. A seaplane base with three quays and two cantonment buildings was on the bank of the Dvina River, on the western edge of the airfield. About 20 twin-engine flying boats with single rudder assembly were stationed there.
13. The field was occupied by: About 50 single-engine fighters, about 20 biplanes and about 150 twin-engine planes with single rudder assembly and plexiglass cockpit canopy. The planes were equipped with ski runners in winter.
14. Flying activity seen included firing at ground targets and sleeve targets, sometimes at night, with searchlights in operation, and bombing and parachuting, with seven parachutists jumping from one plane.
15. A Soviet loading foreman said that three round boilers, each 18 meters long and 1 1/2 to 5 meters in diameter, which were destined for the airfield, were unloaded in October 1948.

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* Comment. The airfield on Dvina Isle, southeast of Arkhangelsk, is known from the war as an improvised airfield. It was apparently improved as a large land and seaplane base. From the reported observations the field is assumed to be occupied by a fighter and naval torpedo bomber regiment of the naval air force. A naval patrol squadron or regiment was probably stationed at the adjacent seaplane base.

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** Comment. The airport west of Arkhangelsk on the Dvina Isle is known from the war. From the observed flying activity the field was apparently occupied by a fighter unit and a school unit. It was probably also used as a commercial field of the Civil Air Fleet. The pin-point location of the seaplane base on the opposite bank of the Dvina River is unclear. A naval patrol unit equipped with Catalina or PDR-6 seaplanes is apparently stationed there. The marking of T-505 on the epauletts cannot be explained.

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